

1-1 By: Hegar (Senate Sponsor - Seliger) H.B. No. 1695  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 25, 2005;  
1-3 April 26, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Criminal Justice; May 5, 2005, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 5, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the appointment and jurisdiction of cattle rangers.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
1-11 amended by adding Article 2.125 to read as follows:

1-12 Art. 2.125. SPECIAL RANGERS OF TEXAS AND SOUTHWESTERN  
1-13 CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION. (a) The director of the Department of  
1-14 Public Safety may appoint up to 50 special rangers who are employed  
1-15 by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association to aid law  
1-16 enforcement agencies in the investigation of the theft of livestock  
1-17 or related property.

1-18 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) of this article, a  
1-19 special ranger may make arrests and exercise all authority given  
1-20 peace officers under this code when necessary to prevent or abate  
1-21 the commission of an offense involving livestock or related  
1-22 property.

1-23 (c) A special ranger may not issue a traffic citation for a  
1-24 violation of Chapter 521, Transportation Code, or Subtitle C, Title  
1-25 7, Transportation Code.

1-26 (d) A special ranger is not entitled to state benefits  
1-27 normally provided by the state to a peace officer.

1-28 (e) A person may not serve as a special ranger unless:

1-29 (1) the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers  
1-30 Association submits the person's application for appointment and  
1-31 certification as a special ranger to the director of the Department  
1-32 of Public Safety and to the executive director of the Commission on  
1-33 Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education;

1-34 (2) the director of the department issues the person a  
1-35 certificate of authority to act as a special ranger;

1-36 (3) the executive director of the commission  
1-37 determines that the person meets minimum standards required of  
1-38 peace officers by the commission relating to competence,  
1-39 reliability, education, training, morality, and physical and  
1-40 mental health and issues the person a license as a special ranger;  
1-41 and

1-42 (4) the person has met all standards for certification  
1-43 as a peace officer by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer  
1-44 Standards and Education.

1-45 (f) For good cause, the director of the department may  
1-46 revoke a certificate of authority issued under this article and the  
1-47 executive director of the commission may revoke a license issued  
1-48 under this article. Termination of employment with the  
1-49 association, or the revocation of a special ranger license, shall  
1-50 constitute an automatic revocation of a certificate of authority to  
1-51 act as a special ranger.

1-52 (g) The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association  
1-53 is liable for any act or omission by a person serving as a special  
1-54 ranger for the association that is within the person's scope of  
1-55 employment. Neither the state nor any political subdivision or  
1-56 agency of the state shall be liable for any act or omission by a  
1-57 person appointed as a special ranger. All expenses incurred by the  
1-58 granting or revocation of a certificate of authority to act as a  
1-59 special ranger shall be paid by the association.

1-60 (h) The director of the department and the executive  
1-61 director of the commission shall have the authority to promulgate  
1-62 rules necessary for the effective administration and performance of  
1-63 the duties and responsibilities delegated to them by this article.

1-64 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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